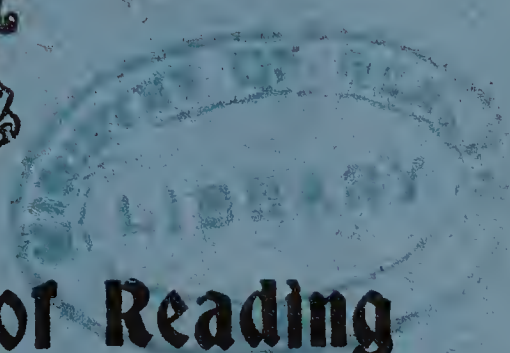


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County Borough of Reading

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1946

By

S. L. WRIGHT., M. D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1946

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Χ‡ Miss D. E. BRACE.

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|| Miss D. M. COLLINS.

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Wm. A. HENSON.

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† *Meat Inspector's Certificate.*

‡ *Certificate of Central Midwives Board.*

0 *Health Visitor's Certificate.*

Χ *State Registered Nurse.*

□ *State Certified Midwife.*

|| *Royal Medical Psychological Association.*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL,
READING,

July, 1947.

**TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING.**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an annual report which, in accordance with the instruction of the Ministry of Health, is again abridged and factual.

Statistical Summary.

Area of borough (in acres)	9,106	
Population (estimated mid-year—Registrar-General)	111,340	
Registered births—Total	2,226	
Legitimate	2,033	
Illegitimate	193	
Birth rate (per 1,000 of the population) ...	20.0	(19.1)
Still-births	73	
,, rate (per 1,000 live and still-births)	31	(28)
Infant deaths (under one year) :—		
Legitimate	74	
Illegitimate	24	
Total	98	
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) :—		
Legitimate	36.4	
Illegitimate	124.3	
Total	44.02	(43.0)
Registered deaths (all causes)	1,382	
Crude death rate (per 1,000 of the population)	12.4	(11.5)
Number of marriages during the year ...	1,159	
Tuberculosis death rate (per 1,000 of the population) :—		
Pulmonary only	0.65	
Non-pulmonary only	0.09	
All forms	0.75	
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth :—		
From sepsis	—	
From other causes	2	
Total	2	
Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	0.89	(1.43)

(Figures in parenthesis indicate corresponding figures for England and Wales).

These figures show no marked changes. Those relating to maternal and infant welfare are better than last year, while tuberculosis records a set-back. The birth rate of 20.0 per 1,000 of the population is the highest recorded in the borough since the year 1921. No standardising factor is yet available to enable the crude death rate to be adjusted for comparison with other areas of the country. As far as former years are concerned, 12.4 is an average figure for Reading.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH.

CAUSES OF DEATH	All ages	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 & up- wards
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fevers ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	4	1	3	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	73	1	—	1	44	21	6
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	2	3	—	4	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases ...	10	3	—	—	—	3	4
Influenza ...	11	2	—	—	—	3	6
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Cancer (all forms) ...	221	—	—	—	14	70	137
Diabetes ...	12	—	—	—	—	6	6
Cerebral Haemorrhage ...	158	—	—	—	2	28	128
Heart Disease ...	361	—	—	—	10	72	279
Other circulatory Diseases ...	94	—	—	—	1	8	85
Bronchitis ...	59	1	2	—	—	13	43
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	65	17	3	1	8	10	26
Other Respiratory Diseases	14	—	—	—	2	10	2
Ulcer of Stomach or duodenum	17	—	—	—	2	5	10
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	14	13	1	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis ...	2	—	1	—	1	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases ...	27	1	—	1	3	7	15
Nephritis ...	12	—	—	—	—	4	8
Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	—
Premature Birth ...	25	25	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility, Malforma- tions, etc. ...	30	25	—	2	—	3	—
Suicide ...	9	—	—	—	5	2	2
Road Accidents ...	15	—	—	1	3	2	9
Other Violent Causes ...	35	4	—	1	4	5	21
All Other Causes ...	97	2	3	4	10	14	64
Totals ...	1382	98	17	11	115	289	852

It will be noted that assessment of the health of the town, based upon the statistics which are now collected, deals only with fatal or serious illnesses. I have no information regarding the general well-being and the amount of minor ill-health of the adult population. The Ministry of Health are endeavouring to collect such data by a system of direct house-to-house enquiry by social survey workers. Already, information is becoming available about the amount of ill-defined and minor sickness amongst the general population throughout the country. I think it will be agreed that especially under the conditions now prevailing, it is very important to have accurate knowledge of this nature. Unfortunately, these enquiries have led to accusations of unwarranted intrusion upon the privacy of the individual. It must be emphasised that the answering of questionnaires for this purpose is purely voluntary and the intention of the surveys is for the benefit of the community as a whole. If the work is allowed to continue, I hope, in future years, to be able to give some results of the analysis of the data as it applies to Reading.

There is no change in the order of frequency of causes of death, nor any special observations to be made on this table. In view of the considerable interest now being shown in the prevention of road accidents, I set out the figures relating to the years 1940-1946, showing deaths from this cause, distributed according to age groups and sex.

ROAD ACCIDENTS—DEATHS, 1940-1946.

YEAR	MALES						FEMALES					
	Age in years					Total deaths	Age in years					Total deaths
	0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and upwards		0-5	5-15	15-45	45-65	65 and upwards	
1940	—	3	2	3	4	12	—	2	1	1	1	5
1941	—	6	6	5	6	23	1	1	1	1	2	6
1942	—	2	3	2	3	10	1	—	2	—	—	3
1943	—	—	3	2	2	7	—	1	1	—	1	3
1944	—	3	1	1	2	7	1	1	3	—	1	6
1945	—	1	2	1	1	5	—	1	3	1	2	7
1946	—	1	3	2	8	14	—	—	—	—	1	1

**CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE
YEAR 1946. CLASSIFIED IN AGE GROUPS.**

Notifiable diseases	Number of cases notified								Notified cases removed to isolation hospital.	Total deaths in isolation hospital.
	At ages—Years									
	At all ages	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.		
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Malaria	21	—	—	—	10	11	—	—	—	—
Measles	52	6	29	14	3	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	95	15	56	24	—	—	—	—	9	1
Scarlet Fever	82	2	30	31	9	6	4	—	25	—
Diphtheria and Membraneous Croup	27	—	4	16	6	1	—	—	27	—
Erysipelas	13	—	—	—	1	6	4	2	4	—
Enteric (Typhoid) Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	27	—	—	—	11	16	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	152	1	1	6	44	67	28	5	88	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	25	—	6	9	5	3	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	35	1	1	1	8	15	8	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	17	3	6	5	1	2	—	—	3	—
Poliomyelitis	5	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	1	—
Polioencephalitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid “ B ”	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	563	34	134	110	99	130	47	9	*186	†5

*This total includes 28 " other diseases " not included in the table.

† " " " 2 " " " " " " " " " " " "

Small-pox.

Thirteen contacts from abroad were reported to the department and were kept under surveillance.

Typhus.

Three contacts were reported and kept under surveillance.

Malaria.

All the cases notified had contracted the disease abroad.

Measles.

1946 was an inter-epidemic year.

Whooping Cough.

This troublesome complaint now has a higher mortality rate than diphtheria. I have been watching closely the efforts to find an effective immunising re-agent. At present, however, no substance has been tested and proved to a standard which permits its recommendation by the Council to the general public.

Scarlet Fever.

Although regarded by the laity as a dangerous disease it has remained a trivial complaint as far as severity of the illness is concerned.

Diphtheria.

For the first year since 1874 no death was recorded as due to this disease. I set out the figures relating to immunisation :—

IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION.

Number of Children who had completed a full course of Immunisation at any time up to the 31st December, 1946.								
Age at 31.12.46 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5-9 1937-1941	10-14 1932-1936	Total under 15
Number Immunised	7	1,008	1,090	989	946	5,772	6,665	16,477
Estimated mid-year population 1946	8,570 =45.9 per cent immunised					15,260 =81.5 per cent immunised		

DIPHTHERIA NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN RELATION TO IMMUNISATION.

Notifications			Deaths		
Age at date of notification	Number of cases notified	Number of cases incld. in preceding col. in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	Number of cases incld. in preceding col. in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	2	—	3	—	—
4	3	1	4	—	—
5-9	10	4	5-9	—	—
10-14	5	1	10-14	—	—
Totals	20	6	Totals	—	—

In order to obviate the necessity of periodically conducting campaigns of persuasive propaganda, the following scheme, having as its objective the routine immunisation against diphtheria of every child during the first year of life, was instituted at the commencement of 1946.

Forms are completed in duplicate, in respect of all births notified within the borough of Reading, and filed in chronological order.

On attaining the age of nine months, a child is visited by the district health visitor, who completes the duplicate portion of the form, stating whether the parents are willing to have the child immunised privately or under the auspices of the Corporation scheme. In the case of a definite refusal, the Medical Officer of Health writes to the parents, stressing the importance of immunisation.

The original copy of the form is filed for record purposes.

When a completed form of consent is received, appointments are made for the child to attend for primary and secondary inoculations at one of the five diphtheria immunisation clinics conducted in various parts of the town.

If an appointment for either a primary or secondary inoculation is not fulfilled, a further appointment is automatically made. If there be no response to the fourth notice of appointment, the case is returned to the health visitor for further investigation and persuasion.

Typhoid Fever.

This case was due to the infected ice-cream at Aberystwyth.

Paratyphoid Fever.

This patient was admitted to a hospital in Reading from an address outside the borough.

PARK ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The total number of patients admitted to Park Hospital during the year was 186 which, together with 36 patients remaining in the hospital on the 1st January, 1946, made a total of 222 patients treated there during the year. Details of the types of cases admitted are as follows :—

Disease	Remaining in hospital 1 Jan, 1946	Since admitted	Since discharged	Died in hospital	Remaining in hospital 31 Dec., 1946
Scarlet Fever ...	3	25	27	—	1
Diphtheria ...	9	27	35	—	1
Tuberculosis ...	24	88	102	2	8
Other Diseases ...	—	46	41	3	2
Totals ...	36	186	205	5	12

The problem of nursing and domestic staff shortages became still more acute. Appeals by means of public advertisements and by personal letters to all women registered with the Ministry of Labour as having nursing qualifications were without effect. The engagement of displaced persons from Europe for domestic duties was arranged through the Ministry of Labour.

DISINFECTION.

All the work of disinfection rendered necessary by the prevalence of infectious disease, has been carried out during the year. The following summary shows the nature and extent of the work involved.

	Houses	Number of		
		Separate Rooms	Beds and Mattresses	Miscellaneous Articles
Reading District	292	266	119	785
Adjoining Districts ...	67	1	150	524
Miscellaneous Institutions	—	49	133	608
Totals ...	359	316	402	1,917

DISINFESTATION.

(See note included in the section of the report dealing with Housing on page 21).

TUBERCULOSIS.

The subjoined table shows the number of notifications and deaths due to tuberculosis, annually, since 1928.

Year	No. of cases notified		No. of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population	
	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary	Pul-monary	Non-Pul-monary
1928-37 Average	117	22	76	15	0.76	0.15
1938	91	31	58	6	0.58	0.05
1939	95	40	52	12	0.50	0.10
1940	117	30	74	18	0.66	0.16
1941	137	50	68	16	0.54	0.13
1942	186	40	60	10	0.51	0.08
1943	185	30	57	13	0.51	0.11
1944	135	29	55	14	0.49	0.13
1945	119	16	60	12	0.55	0.11
1946	152	25	73	11	0.65	0.09

The following report of the work of the tuberculosis dispensary is supplied by Dr. W. H. Tattersall, the Tuberculosis Officer :—

“Incidence and Mortality. The number of deaths from tuberculosis of all forms during 1946 shows a slight increase on the previous four years. In view of the various circumstances at present which might be expected to affect the decline of this

disease adversely, this result is not unsatisfactory. There is also an increase in the number of new cases notified ; this, too, is slight, and in view of the increased number of patients who have been examined, this increase can to some extent be regarded as an increase in the ascertainment, rather than a true increase in the incidence, of the disease.

Examinations at the Tuberculosis Dispensary clinic. Eight hundred and seventy-five patients were examined for the first time at the dispensary—the highest number since the clinic was opened. Of these, 17% were found to be suffering from tuberculosis, as compared with 19% in 1945, and 28% in 1938. These percentages suggest that an increasing proportion of people are willing to be referred by their own doctors for special chest examination. Of the 127 cases diagnosed at the clinic only 61, *i.e.* 48%, were found to be sputum positive. The remainder, or more than half, were diagnosed in the earlier, sputum negative phase of the disease.

Of the 73 deaths from tuberculosis during the year, only 55 of these patients had previously attended the clinic. Over the whole of the last 30 years this ratio has shown but little variation in Reading, and such figures as are available for other areas also point to the conclusion that about 1 in 3 or 4 of the deaths from tuberculosis each year are among patients not previously known to the tuberculosis officer.

The total number of attendances at the clinic, 6,262, is more than double the corresponding figure for the last pre-war year.

Contacts. Persuading a patient's contacts to be examined naturally devolves very largely on the tuberculosis visitors. On account of the increased work at the clinic, their domiciliary visits, 1,649, again show a decrease. Consequently, the examination of contacts has had to be for the most part restricted to contacts of sputum positive patients. Two hundred and thirty-two new contacts have been checked during the year, and although this gives a proportion of only 1.6 contacts per notification of pulmonary tuberculosis, if taken in relation to the sputum positive cases only, the contact rate becomes 3.8 new contacts per case.

The policy of following up contacts for several years has been continued, and shows further justification than last year. In 1945, 8% of the new cases were discovered through contact examination, and in 1946 this figure was increased to 13%.

Fluoroscopy. In April 1946 a screening apparatus was installed, and this has greatly increased the scope of the clinical work at the dispensary. It is now possible to control pneumothorax refills accurately by screening prior to every refill, whereas previously these patients visited Battle Hospital each month

to be screened. In some instances, examination on the fluoroscopic screen suffices instead of the more tedious procedure of asking the patient to attend Battle Hospital for complete x-ray examination. This is especially the case in regard to the re-examination of contacts.

In the autumn it was decided to offer the general practitioners in the town the facility of a rapid report on the screening appearance of a patient's chest, and this facility was also offered to each woman attending the ante-natal clinic. A special session was instituted on Thursday mornings for this purpose, and the response has greatly exceeded expectations in every way. In the first three months 257 such examinations were made, the results of which are shown in the following table :—

	Ante-natal Doctors'	
	cases	cases
Number screened	112	145
Number suspected abnormal	4	16
Number found tuberculous	1	4

By this method it is possible to examine many persons more rapidly, and more cheaply, than by full examination, and, while the technique is, of course, not so precise as a more protracted thorough examination, it is providing a useful facility which can be regarded as intermediate towards mass radiography.

Ancillary Investigations. By the courtesy of the Medical Superintendent of Battle Hospital, the practice of taking x-ray films there on two sessions weekly has been continued. Ordinary sputum examinations are made at the Tuberculosis Dispensary clinic and, in addition, various special examinations have been carried out by the pathological laboratory at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Treatment. Despite the grievous shortage of nurses, 60 patients were admitted to sanatoria during the year, and 88 to the tuberculosis pavilion at Park Hospital. This compares with 67 and 90 respectively in the previous year, and shows that despite the prevailing difficulties, almost as many patients have enjoyed the benefits of institutional treatment. However, these figures offer no grounds for complacency ; the number of beds available at Park Hospital has had to be further reduced ; the 13% decrease on pre-war admissions still persists, and by comparison with the year's new notifications it is observed that the total number of institutional admissions barely exceeds the number of new cases. Every effort has been made to give early cases the benefit of collapse therapy, but on account of the pressure on beds the rest period has had to be greatly curtailed for most patients. Furthermore, because of the grave nursing problem, the institutional care of the tuberculous chronic sick has had to be given up almost entirely, and in consequence there has been some unavoidable hardship and distress in the care of these patients by their own families.

More nurses, enough to open up another thirty beds at Park Hospital, constitute a very urgent, and by far the most pressing need, in the care of the tuberculous in Reading.

Housing. In contrast, it is satisfactory to report that 43 tuberculous families have been rehoused—a marked increase from 1945, in which only half-a-dozen were found more spacious homes. There can be no doubt that the generous consideration of the Housing Committee of the needs of these cases for rehousing has been a substantial factor in the preventive aspect of the control of tuberculosis in Reading this year.

Staff. Miss J. Robson-Smith, who had been the clerk at the Tuberculosis Dispensary since its inception in 1914, retired during the summer. It is fitting in this report to record appreciation of her 32 years of service to the tuberculosis scheme in Reading."

The following table shows the number of cases undergoing institutional treatment at the end of the year, other than in Park hospital :—

Patients in Sanatoria	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Totals
Ventnor	1	—	—	—	1
London Chest Hospital ...	2	—	—	—	2
Grosvenor	9	9	—	—	18
Papworth	3	—	—	—	3
Frimley	—	1	—	—	1
Heath End	—	—	3	—	3
Preston Hall	2	1	—	—	3
Wingfield Hospital ...	2	1	—	—	3
Cold Ash Hospital	—	—	2	—	2
Brompton	—	1	—	—	1
Berks and Bucks	—	1	—	1	2
St. Michael's, Hayle ...	1	1	—	—	2
Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital	—	—	1	—	1
Beech Hill	—	1	—	—	1
St. Michael's, Axbridge ...	—	1	—	—	1
Treloar Hospital	—	—	—	2	2
Churchill Hospital	1	—	—	—	1

Tuberculosis Dispensary After-care Association.

The following extracts are taken from the report of the Honorary Secretary :—

" During 1946 the Association has lost the services of Miss Edith M. Sutton, Miss E. M. Tunbridge, Miss A. Waltham and Miss J. Robson-Smith.

Miss Sutton served the Association for over thirty years and was a pioneer of its inception in 1915. The committee have recorded their appreciation of the kindly help and interest given by Miss Sutton.

Miss Robson-Smith had been honorary secretary to the Association also since its inception, and throughout her 31 years tenure of office she was untiring in her efforts to foster the objects for which this Association stands. The committee have placed on record their appreciation of the outstanding services and the interest which she has shown in carrying out her duties as honorary secretary of the Association.

In September, Mr. J. L. Cottrill was appointed secretary in succession to Miss Robson-Smith.

The Relief Sub-Committee. During the past twelve months this committee has assembled on thirteen occasions, with an average attendance of nine. It has considered some 200 applications for assistance from tuberculous patients. Of the applications received 132 have been granted extra nourishment by way of free milk ; 3 have been provided with free clothing ; 4 have been granted rail fares and in three instances financial help has been given.

The committee has also been responsible for the consideration of financial assistance to patients undergoing approved treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis under the Ministry of Health scheme. Mr. C. E. House, Welfare Officer, has attended the tuberculosis dispensary twice weekly and has been responsible for the management of this. During the period under review he has made 514 visits to the homes of the people.

The applications considered by the committee are summarized as follows :—

Maintenance allowances	...	...	221
Winter fuel allowances	...	...	34
Discretionary allowances	...	...	17
Special allowances	...	...	44

The chairman of the Relief-Sub-Committee (Alderman T. S. W. Smart) has attended each week to authorise payments being made in the intervals between meetings of the sub-committee.

Christmas Gifts. The association made Christmas gifts in the form of a parcel of groceries and 1 cwt. of coal to each of 38 patients at Christmastide.

The sum of £5 was granted to the Matron of Park Hospital (Miss A. Weir) for ward decorations and personal gifts for the patients in the tuberculosis pavilion.

The Handicrafts department. This has continued throughout the year and the 'shop' at the dispensary has been open once a week. During the past year this department has become entirely self-supporting. It is regretted that owing to illness recently, further details of the work of the handicrafts department's activities cannot be submitted.

Sheltered Industries. At the meeting of the Executive Committee on the 15th November it was resolved that a 'Workshops Sub-Committee' be formed to investigate the possibility of setting up sheltered industries in Reading for the rehabilitation of persons disabled by tuberculosis."

SCABIES.

During 1946, Battle Hospital scabies clinic was the only special scabies clinic operating, Whitley clinic having to close down owing to lack of staff and falling demand.

Number of treatments given at Battle Hospital clinic during the year :—

Women and children	...	...	754
Men and boys	...	...	264

Two clinics for each sex are held weekly. Those for women and children on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and for men on the same days from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Every endeavour is made to persuade the whole family to attend for treatment on the same day, but adults with slight infestation and minimal symptoms are reluctant to believe that they may be the source of their children's re-infestation.

In no case was it thought necessary to invoke the use of the Scabies Order, 1941.

VACCINATION.

The number of children successfully vaccinated during the year was 1,012 or 36 per cent of all births occurring in the borough during the year 1945, as compared with 34 per cent during the previous year.

Details as follows :—

Districts.	Number of births Registered.	Number of children successfully vaccinated.	Insusceptible of vaccination.	Had Small-pox.	Died un-vaccinated.	Exemption from vaccination by Statutory Declaration of "Conscientious Objection."	Postponement by Medical Certificate.	Removed to other districts.	Removed to places unknown.	Number of births remaining (unaccounted for).	
										No.	Rate per cent of total births
St. Mary's	1117	315	7	—	40	530	7	21	78	119	10.6
St. Giles'	884	278	2	—	37	388	8	63	27	81	9.1
Caversham	825	419	3	—	21	201	4	115	38	24	2.9
Whole Borough	2826	1012	12	—	98	1119	19	199	143	224	7.1

VENEREAL DISEASES.

From the returns of the Medical Officer in charge of the clinic at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, the following figures have been extracted of the number of Reading residents dealt with for the first time during the years denoted.

	1946	1945	1944	1943	1938
Syphilis	38	38	37	41	20
Gonorrhoea	85	66	72	107	97
Non-Venereal	258	205	209	179	28

Venereal Disease Regulations, 33/B. The Council resolved that single notifications should be followed up by the Chief Health Visitor and the following record of her work is given.

Contacts notified to the Medical Officer of Health during the period 1st January, 1946, to 31st December, 1946.

		M.	F.
(1)	(a) Total number of contacts in respect of whom Form I was received	—	20
	(b) Number in (a) transferred from other areas		Nil
(2)	Number of cases in (1) in which attempts were made during the current period outside the scope of the Regulation to persuade the contact to be examined before the latter had been named on a second Form 1 :—		
	Contacts found	—	9
	„ examined or already under treatment	—	9
(3)	(a) Number of those in (1) in respect of whom two or more Forms 1 were received ...	—	5
	(b) Number included in 3 (a) in respect of whom the first Form 1 was previously reported under (1)	—	5
	(c) Number included in (3) (a) transferred from other areas	—	—
(4)	Number of those in (3) (a) who were :—		
	(a) found	—	5
	(b) examined after persuasion or already under treatment	—	4
	(c) served with Form 2	—	1
	(d) examined after service of Form 2 (Form (1) 1945)	—	1
	(e) prosecuted for failure :—		
	(I) to attend for, and submit to, medical examination	—	—
	(II) to submit to and continue treatment	—	—
(f)	transferred to other areas	—	—
	Visits paid to these cases in their homes ...		89

BATTLE HOSPITAL.

Dr. D. C. Thomas, after twenty years service as Medical Superintendent of the Hospital, was forced to retire owing to ill-health on the 4th January, 1946. Dr. J. C. Harvey took up his duties as medical superintendent in April, 1946, and attention was given to the question of shaping the future of the hospital in its relationship to the medical services of the town. The following is an extract of a report by the Battle Hospital Sub-Committee, which was approved by the Council :—

“ We are of opinion that the problem of staffing Battle Hospital cannot be delayed and that some immediate decisions must be made to implement your decision to up-grade the hospital, and at the same time to plan a structure which could be included with the least possible disturbance in a co-ordinated service for the whole district.

The Medical Superintendent now reports that the hospital can be regarded as comprising three specialised and two general divisions, namely :—

Special divisions—

(a)	Acute medical cases (including children)	...	...	...	102 beds
(b)	Acute surgical cases	...	...	...	66 „
(c)	Maternity and diseases of women	...	...	...	61 „
Total					229 „

General division—

(a)	Chronic sick	...	...	...	155 „
(b)	Mental observation, public assistance nursery	...	...	...	119 „
Total					274 „

Each special division will require a whole-time senior and a whole-time junior medical officer. The work of the general division, the out-patients and casualty departments can be distributed throughout the staff and, on this basis of working, the resident establishment immediately required will be :—

Medical—

- 1 Medical Superintendent specialising in obstetrics
- 1 Deputy Medical Superintendent specialising in surgery
- 1 Senior Assistant Medical Officer (B1) specialising in medicine
- 3 Junior Assistant Medical Officers (B2) „ „

The following is a summary of the work carried out at Battle Hospital during the year :—

Number of patients admitted	...	3,108
Number of patients discharged	...	3,089
Number of deaths	... ..	451
Number of operations carried out	...	979
Number of x-ray examinations	...	3,639
Number of maternity patients admitted		477

Out-patients department—

New patients attending	...	...	525
Total treatments	...	...	6,160

Gynaecological out-patients—

New patients attending	...	...	219
Total treatments	...	...	1,033

Physiotherapy department—

Total treatments	...	...	5,633
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Dr. Harvey, in supplying the above summary of the work performed during the year, draws attention to certain changes—the improvement in the layout and equipment of the scabies clinic; the commencement of the ante-natal clinic serving partly the examination of mothers booked for the hospital and partly domiciliary midwifery cases in the area; the development of physiotherapy and the admission of cases from the waiting list of the Royal Berkshire Hospital for surgical and gynaecological treatment.

There is a pressing need for more and better nurses' accommodation. Approval in principle to the erection of a new nurses' hostel was given by the Ministry of Health and plans are being prepared. A new nurses' dining-room and new kitchens in the existing nurses' home were in course of construction at the close of the year.

The General Nursing Council required certain alterations in the standard of equipment and method of staffing, before they were agreeable to continuing recognition of the hospital as a training school for nurses. These were carried out and the recognition continues.

Shortage of nurses and domestics has been, at all times, a great problem, and a very heavy burden has been borne by the Matron and her staff.

NURSING RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN.

The Reading division of the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Regional Hospitals Council, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labour and all hospitals and institutions in

the area, conducted a nursing recruitment campaign during May. A nursing exhibition was opened for one week, while special meetings, newspaper advertisements and poster publicity stressed the need for more nurses. This effort did little to aid immediate needs but undoubtedly was very useful in a long-term campaign for nursing recruitment.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The following is a report of the sanitary circumstances of the borough, prepared by Mr. W. E. Bond, the Chief Sanitary Inspector :—

“Staff. A depleted staff still continues to restrict the work of this section of the department, especially in routine inspection of factories, workplaces and licensed premises.

When the restriction of building materials becomes less acute and it is possible to increase the inspection of houses for defects, the shortage of inspectorate clerical staff will become more evident.

Despite this drawback much has been accomplished in an endeavour to make up some of the leeway lost during the war years.

During the year 6,087 inspections and visits and 516 interviews for the investigation of complaints under the Public Health and Housing Acts were made by the district sanitary inspectors. Many of these complaints were received only after repeated requests had been made to the persons permitting or causing the nuisance or to the owners or agents had been ignored. The public have generally been very patient, realising the difficulties experienced by owners or agents to obtain the labour and material with which to carry out the repairs which have accumulated during the war years.

During the year 1,176 complaints were received as compared with 1,129 in the previous year.

An analysis of the complaints received is given in the table below :—

Defective houses	...	...	...	213
Defective roofs and chimneys	...	...	...	178
Defective gutters and stackpipes	...	...	...	29
Defective windows	...	...	...	12
Damp walls	...	...	...	84
Defective floors	...	...	...	48
Defective ceilings	...	...	...	42
Defective sinks and waste pipes	...	...	...	60
Defective coppers	...	...	...	22
Defective cooking ranges	...	...	...	32
Defective sanitary accommodation				157

Choked or defective house drains	...	50
Defective yards and paving	...	3
Cesspools	...	11
Accumulations of refuse	...	18
Animals so kept as to be a nuisance		24
Smoke nuisances	...	5
Dirty tenants	...	18
Overcrowding	...	40
Miscellaneous	...	72
Not justified	...	58

Public Health Act, 1936.

Sewers and drains. Seven hundred and thirty-three visits were paid in respect of 222 complaints of choked drains and sewers, of these 102 were cleared by the owners and 89 by the local authority. In 60 cases it was necessary to repair parts of the drains and in 9 cases they were completely relaid.

Verminous houses. Disinfestation. Bed bugs. During the latter part of last year some experiments were made with D.D.T. and as a result 'Zaldecide' with a 5% addition of D.D.T. has been used with undoubted success in eradication of the bed bug. Five hundred and seventy-five rooms with furniture and bedding therein have been dealt with and observations and inspections show that there have been no re-infestation.

In an attempt to prevent infestation of Council houses they are treated before occupation and the houses and furniture of ingoing tenants are dealt with before removal.

No. of complaints received				No. of houses disinfested	No. of rooms disinfested
Council houses	...	...	84	77	184
Private houses	...	...	283	242	391
Totals	...	...	367	319	575

Number of inspections prior to disinfestation	....	....	186
Number of inspections including disinfestation	.....	.....	367
Number of re-inspections	....	.....	160
Total			713

Cockroaches. Six infestations have been treated with D.D.T. with very good results, though experience shows that fortnightly treatments are necessary over a period of 3 months to be entirely satisfactory.

Nuisances. One hundred and forty-three preliminary notices were served during the year for the abatement of nuisances which were not dealt with under the Housing Regulations. Of these 142 were complied with including 2 outstanding in 1945. Three statutory notices were served in 3 instances and same were complied with.

Smoke nuisances. During the year 5 complaints were received of nuisances from smoke. Four of these were remedied upon verbal notice from the inspectors. In one case an entire reconstruction of the boiler flues was found necessary, and after some delay in obtaining materials effective smoke consuming apparatus was fixed to both boilers and the nuisance is permanently abated.

Nuisance from fumes. Sulphur fumes emanating from a factory in the area have caused much concern, and after consultation with experts a suitable type of fume washer has been obtained, and the installation when complete will entirely abate the nuisance.

Offensive Trades. The number of offensive and associated trades carried on in the borough is 6. They are 1 blood boiler, 1 fat boiler, 1 bone boiler, 2 tripe dressers, 1 gut scraper. No complaints have been received during the year. These premises are all inspected regularly, and they have at all times been properly conducted and kept in a satisfactory condition. Notices to cleanse and limewash are given verbally as and when required, and every co-operation is received from the traders.

Infectious disease. Three hundred and fifty-seven inspections of premises following notifications of infectious disease were made during the year, and the householders were advised on matters of hygiene in cases which were nursed at home. Cleansing and redecorating being ordered where conditions warranted it.

Common Lodging Houses. There are three common lodging houses in the borough which, though leaving much to be desired in structure and arrangement, are fairly well kept. The provisions of the Public Health Act, enabling the local authority to refuse registration, will be taken advantage of in the case of less suitable houses when the opportunity arises, but acute shortage of houses would not permit such action being taken at the present time. There is accommodation for 125 men and three married couples, and it will be noticed that there is no accommodation available for single women.

The difficulty experienced by common lodging house keepers to obtain replacements of bedding and other equipment has been partially met, and more frequent changing of bed linen is now possible.

Night supervision and maintenance of order are carried out by the police.

Canal Boats. Routine visits were paid to the wharves on the Thames and Kennet. No case was observed where a barge was used as a dwelling.

Movable dwellings. There are 22 movable dwellings stationed in the borough, all of which have suitable sanitary accommodation and town water supply. These are licensed for periods of 6 months when they come up for reconsideration. Numerous enquiries have been received during the year for permission to station such dwellings in the borough, but many of these have been discouraged. The reason for these applications is still the difficulty of obtaining normal accommodation. Two hundred and seventy-one visits were paid to the dwellings and sites during the year. No serious complaints were received.

Factories Act, 1937.

There are 494 factories recorded in the register kept for this purpose.

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with mechanical power	292	37	—
Factories without „ „	105	15	—

Defects Found	Number of Defects			No. of defects in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	26	26	—	—
Overcrowding	1	1	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ...	1	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ...	22	22	—	—
Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	52	52	—	—

Homework.

Number of visits paid 34

Nature :—Wearing apparel (Tailoring, Knitting, Hosiery, etc.)					
Lists received twice a year from employers	...	...	...	—	
Number of Outworkers Contractors	...	...	...	—	
Workmen	...	...	...	—	
Lists received once a year	...	...	...	5	
Number of Outworkers Contractors	...	...	...	—	
Workmen	...	...	...	19	
Outwork in unwholesome premises	...	...	...	—	
Notices served	...	...	...	—	
Outwork in infected premises	...	...	...	—	

Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 1938. The number and description of samples submitted for examination by the Public Analyst are set out in the following table :—

Articles	Number of samples	Number found to be genuine	Number not up to standard
New milk	270	245	25
Soya Flour	1	—	1
Vinegar	6	5	1
Vinegar Essence	1	1	—
Malted beverage	1	1	—
Brown ale... ..	1	—	1
Ice cream	7	7	—
Ice cream powder	2	2	—
Butter	2	2	—
Chocolate pudding mixture	1	—	1
Essence of Rennet	2	2	—
Stewed steak	1	1	—
Bicarbonate of soda	1	1	—
Gin	1	1	—
Red wine vinegar	1	—	1
Coffee and coffee essence	5	5	—
Totals	303	273	30

No proceedings were instituted during the year, but in one case the producer was warned by the Committee.

No proceedings were instituted with regard to the wine vinegar by this authority as proceedings were taken against the manufacturers on a similar sample taken by the Berkshire County Sampling Officer at about the same time.

Food Hygiene. During the year 791 visits were paid to various premises where food is prepared, stored or sold. Generally it was found that the premises were kept in a satisfactory condition. All verbal notices to cleanse and limewash were complied

with. In 22 instances formal written notices were necessary before the work was completed. A summary of the visits paid is set out below :—

Butchers' shops	...	...	...	130
Fish shops	...	...	...	159
Restaurants	...	...	...	166
Kitchens	...	...	...	32
Food factories	...	...	...	47
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	...	257
Total				791

Condemned Foodstuffs. The following is a list of foodstuffs examined and found to be unfit for human consumption. Every effort was made to salvage that which could be used for animal feeding and the remainder destroyed.

Tinned articles	...	...	11,309 tins
Meat and bacon	...	...	2,154½ lbs.
Fish	...	...	15,223 lbs.
Jam	...	...	207 „
Eggs	...	...	1,439
Potatoes	...	...	1,512 lbs.
Dates	...	...	244 „
Miscellaneous	...	...	4,770¾ „
Salt	...	...	560 „
Flour	...	...	504 „
Oranges	...	...	1,000

In addition 4,734 lbs. of bread were condemned from commencement of rationing to 31st December, 1946.

Bakehouses. Seventy-nine visits were paid to bakehouses during the year. Thirty-one notices were served to cleanse which were complied with.

Laundries. Seventeen visits were paid to laundries and six notices to cleanse were complied with.

Dairies and Cowsheds. During the year 139 inspections were paid to dairy premises. All notices to cleanse and limewash were complied with.

No. of Dairies on the Register at the end of 1945	New applications for Registration	Dairies removed from the Register during the year	No. of dairies on register at the end of 1946
211	—	10	201

Cowsheds. Number of cowsheds on the registers, 13.
Number of cows specified on the registers, 518.

Eighty visits were made. All notices to cleanse were complied with.

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936-42.

The following table sets out the number and nature of licences issued by the local authority :—

Producers licences	" Tuberculin Tested " ..	4
Producers licences	" Accredited "	5
Producers licences	" Pasteurised "	5
Dealers licences	" Tuberculin Tested " (Certified)	2
Bottling licences	" Tuberculin Tested " ..	5
Dealers licences	" Pasteurised "	9
Dealers licences	" Tuberculin Tested "	19
Supplementary licence ..	" Tuberculin Tested " (Dealers)	1
Supplementary licence ..	" Accredited "	1

Two hundred and twenty-three visits were paid to the farms and dairies where designated milk is produced or treated for the purpose of taking samples, examination of registers, inspection of plant, dairies and cowsheds.

A general standard of cleanliness is maintained but labour problems have delayed much redecoration and painting in the larger dairies.

Below is given an analysis of the samples taken during the year.

Class of Milk	No. of Samples Tested	Appropriate tests	No. of Samples	
			Passed	Failed
Pasteurised ...	83	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	81 82	2 1
Heat Treated ...	16	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	16 16	— —
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	19	Phosphatase Methylene Blue	19 19	— —
Tuberculin Tested	83	Methylene Blue	83	15
Tuberculin Tested (Certified)	15	Coliform	81	17
Accredited ...	28	Methylene Blue Coliform	26 26	2 2

Total number of samples tested ... 244

Tuberculous Milk. Thirty-one samples were taken during the year, 14 of which were from producers outside the borough. Two of these were found on examination to contain living tubercle bacilli. The usual procedure was followed and both the offending animals were found and destroyed.

Number of samples taken	Number in which tubercle bacilli present	Rate per cent. found tuberculous
31	2	6.45

School Milk Supplies. The grade of milk supplied to schools and the quantity is as follows :—

Grade supplied	Quantity in gallons daily
Pasteurised	516 (approx.)

Ice Cream. Much publicity has been given to this popular commodity following the outbreak of typhoid at Aberystwyth in July. There is now a demand for a higher standard of purity and quality. The new regulations will to some extent give greater control of ice cream but will leave much to be desired in this direction. During the year 111 visits were paid to premises where ice cream is stored, manufactured or sold. Twenty-one samples were taken for bacteriological examination and 7 for chemical examination. The results point to the necessity of standards both for purity and food value.

Number	Bacteriological count	Presence or absence of coliform organisms	Laboratory remarks
1	3,900	Absent	Satisfactory
2	Millions	Present	Unsatisfactory
3	6,200	Present	Unsatisfactory
4	245,000	Present	Unsatisfactory
5	Millions	Present	Unsatisfactory
6	287,000	Present	Unsatisfactory
7	384,000	Present	Unsatisfactory
8	Millions	Present	Unsatisfactory
9	114,000	Present	Unsatisfactory
10	62,000	Absent	Satisfactory
11	11,000	Absent	Satisfactory
12	24,000	Absent	Satisfactory
13	62,000	Absent	Satisfactory
14	12,000	Absent	Satisfactory
15	330,000	Present	Unsatisfactory
16	Millions	Present	Unsatisfactory
17	27,000	Absent	Satisfactory
18	Millions	Absent	Satisfactory
19	23,000	Absent	Satisfactory
20	37,000	Absent	Satisfactory
21	142,000	Present	Unsatisfactory

Chemical Results Number	Fats	Total solids
1	11.00%	34.50%
2	0.10%	14.25%
3	2.69%	24.00%
4	3.56%	14.60%
5	0.10%	24.40%
6	0.10%	24.40%
7	0.30%	19.75%

Meat Inspection. There are two slaughterhouses at present operating under the control of the Ministry of Food, and all carcasses slaughtered therein are examined by the meat inspectors before being passed for allocation to the borough and surrounding districts. Eight hundred and eighty-seven visits were paid to the slaughterhouses during the year.

The number of animals slaughtered and the number of carcasses and part carcasses condemned is set out below :—

	Bovine			Sheep	Pigs	Boars Sows	Calves
	Steers Heifers	Cows	Bulls				
Number slaughtered	3,466	1,945	138	14,108	14,515	578	6,115
<i>Number of Carcasses condemned for diseases other than Tuberculosis—</i>							
Whole carcasses ...	42	—	—	12	13	2	8
Part carcasses ...	45	—	—	29	14	—	8
Heads and internal organs ...	1,015	—	—	422	93	—	31
<i>Number of carcasses condemned for Tuberculosis—</i>							
Whole carcasses ...	60	—	—	—	1	—	1
Part carcasses ...	61	—	—	—	1	—	—
Heads and internal organs	1,386	—	—	—	29	—	1

Knacker's Yard. There is one knacker's yard situated in an outlying part of the borough. Thirty-six visits were paid to these premises, which are kept clean and free from nuisance.

Shops Act, 1934 (Section 10, Heating, Sanitary and Washing accommodation). During the year 33 complaints were received from the Shops Inspector of shops which failed to comply with the provisions of Section 10 of the Act and 40 visits were paid.

Seven notices were served requiring additional sanitary accommodation to be provided, two were complied with. Difficulty in obtaining licences for the necessary building materials is the reason for five notices being outstanding at the end of the year. One notice to provide heating was complied with.

Twenty-one exemptions were granted during the year in cases where restricted accommodation or other special conditions were prevailing.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and Infestation Order, 1943. During the year the inspection and treatment of premises under block control was completed, and the re-inspection of those areas treated at the commencement of the scheme proved to have been satisfactorily dealt with.

Progress during the latter part of the year was slowed down owing to two operators leaving the employ of the Corporation and the difficulty of replacing them with suitable men.

A summary of the work done during the year is contained in the following table :—

	Block Control	Complaints of individual premises	Contracts	Total
Premises treated ...	112	281	—	393
Visits paid in connection with above	448	1,840	—	2,288
Poison baits laid ...	992	2,977	—	3,969
Rats picked up ...	411	1,244	28 contracts operative	1,655
Estimated kill on Ministry's formula	1,862	5,598		7,460
Premises cleared ...	108	14	—	122
Premises Re-infested	4	14	—	18
Re-infestations cleared	4	74	—	78
Premises treated and found clear ...	24	—	—	24
Re-inspection of located premises ...	123	366	—	489
Re-inspection of all the above work ...	937	2,813	—	3,750

In addition to the destruction of rats, other vermin or pests were destroyed. The number of complaints and the type of vermin destroyed are shown below :—

Vermin and pests	No. of complaints	No. of vermin, etc., destroyed
Grey squirrels ...	11	37
Rabbits ...	16	not known
Moles ...	9	90
Badgers ...	1	1
Foxes ...	3	6
Pigeons ...	7	*40
Wasps ...	29	29 nests

*Eighteen of these were ringed birds and returned alive to the local Pigeon Flying Club.

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year—

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,080
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	3,670
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	539
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	539
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of para. 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	539

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers (Including 79 outstanding from 1945)	499
--	-----

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	20
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
	(a) By owners	8
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	8
	(c) Undertaking not to let until made fit	—

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
	(a) By owners	—
	(b) By local authority in default of owners	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

D. Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..	— "

Re-Housing and the Allocation of New Houses.

The shortage of houses has continued to be a grave problem. The cessation of building during the war years has been added to the burden of an increase in the population of the town of

over 10 per cent. Applicants for houses usually stress the adverse effects of bad housing on health and it is agreed that their claims have substance. The supply being so much less than the demand, it was necessary to make recommendations for priority on health grounds, with the greatest care. Under the conditions in Reading, where every house has a supply of pure drinking water and water carriage sewage disposal is the rule, I am certain that overcrowding presents more dangers to health than constructional defects. In overcrowded households tuberculosis is the condition requiring and responding to prompt re-housing. It must be emphasised that giving priority to open cases of this disease, the intention is to prevent spread in the family of the patient and ultimately in the community as a whole. Sufferers from other ailments contend that their need for better housing at least equals that of the tuberculous. I regard this question not as a matter of comfort or even cure of an individual patient but the prevention of the spread of a disease which may involve several persons and even go on to infect a second generation. It will be observed from the report of the Tuberculosis Officer that prompt and effective action has been taken by the Housing Committee. As regards overcrowding where there is no chronic infectious focus, the greatest risk in health is to families with infants and young children. The Housing Committee have wisely given heed to this fact in their re-housing programme.

Unfortunately at present all our efforts can only be directed to minimising the adverse affects of bad housing. When we are able to raise generally the standards of domestic hygiene we shall see improvements in health similar to those which followed the great sanitary reforms of the nineteenth century. It is a goal for the future.

House Refuse Collection and Disposal, Salvage Collection and Public Cleansing. I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following information on the work of house refuse collection, etc., carried out during the year :—

“ *House Refuse Collection.* The following table shows the quantity of house refuse collected from premises within the borough with the total mileage of vehicles used in this collection.

Quarter Ending	Weight of Refuse			Mileage
	Tons Cwts. Qrs.			
31st March	6,141	0	0	17,856
30th June	4,376	3	0	16,806
30th September	4,289	0	0	17,717
31st December	5,907	5	0	18,294
	20,713	8	0	70,673

House Refusal Disposal. The disposal of house refuse within the borough is carried out by controlled tipping.

Salvage. A noticeable reduction in the amount of kitchen waste collected has been experienced. The method of collection from street bins in which householders deposit their kitchen waste is still in operation. Kitchen waste is taken to the concentrator plant where it is concentrated into animal food. The concentrated kitchen waste is sold to farmers, etc., for animal feeding purposes. The following table shows the tonnage of salvage after it has been sorted.

Materials				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.
Waste paper	...	...		809	14	3
Ferrous metals	...	...		15	15	0
Non-ferrous metals	...	...		5	18	2
Textiles	...	...	...	49	17	2
Bones	...	...	...	11	19	0
Kitchen waste (processed)				1,310	12	0
Bottles and jars	...	...		43	4	0
Cullet	...	...	...	49	5	2

Street Cleansing. The "beat" system of street cleansing by street orderlies continues to be the most satisfactory system of street sweeping in Reading. The collection of sweepings and litter is carried out by means of street orderly trucks which are visited by street cleaning freighters for the collection of the accumulated refuse. The number of employees engaged on this work is :—

Men, 51

Boys, 7

Total, 58

The following table shows the quantity of street sweepings collected within the borough and the mileage of the collection vehicles :—

Quarter Ending	Weight of Sweepings			Mileage
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	
31st March	185	9	2	2,838
30th June	374	12	0	2,976
30th September	393	19	2	3,406
31st December	371	18	3	3,575
	1,325	19	3	12,795

Street Gully Cleansing. All street gullies are emptied and sealed with fresh water by mechanically operated vehicles. The following table shows the tonnage of silt, etc., removed during the year :—

Quarter Ending	Weight			Mileage
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	
31st March	500	1	3	2,468
30th June	520	11	1	2,424
30th September	489	2	1	2,364
31st December	284	1	2	1,470
	1,793	16	3	8,726

Cesspool Emptying. All cesspools are emptied upon receipt of instructions by a mechanical cesspool emptying vehicle with a minimum of inconvenience and nuisance to householders.

Sewage Disposal. During the twelve months ending 31st December, 1946, the average daily flow of sewage treated at Manor Farm Sewage Disposal Works has been 4,275,068 gallons, an increase of over 500,000 gallons per day on last year's average flow. The estimated flow of sewage treated by the Caversham Sewage Disposal Works has been between 500,000 and 600,000 gallons per day. In both cases, the average daily flow is in excess of the designed capacity of the plants.

Sludge Disposal. All sludge produced at the Manor Farm works has been removed and used for agricultural purposes. At Caversham a new sludge drying bed was constructed and this has improved the drying, and disposal of sludge at these works.

Chlorination. The chlorination plant at Manor Farm was put into operation in April, and since then a small dose of chlorine has been applied to the incoming sewage to control septicity in the sedimentation tanks.

Final Effluents. At Manor Farm the load on the biological filters has been increased both by the increased flow of sewage and by the deterioration in the quality of the effluent from the partial treatment activated sludge plant."

Water Supply. I am indebted to the Engineer and Manager of the Water Department for the following information in regard to the water supply of the borough during the year :—

"The water supply of the area and of its several parts is very satisfactory both in quality and quantity. Regular examinations of the water supply are made as follows :—Monthly—

full chemical and bacteriological analyses from Fobney pumping and filtration works (river water).

1. Raw river water.
2. After filtration.
3. After filtration and chlorination (bacteriological only).

Southcote pumping and filtration works (river water)—

1. Final water after filtration and chlorination.

Pangbourne pumping station (borehole water—chalk)—

1. After chlorination.

Bath road reservoir—

1. Reservoir outlet main.

Weekly—Partial bacteriological examination—

Fobney works—final treated water.

Southcote works—final treated water.

Pangbourne works—final treated water.

Full bacteriological examination—

Bath road reservoir outlet main.

The reports invariably state the final treated water and the water from the reservoir is 'consistent with a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.'

All houses are supplied direct, excepting an odd standpipe or two in the area of supply.

The water is moderately hard in character and has no plumbo-solvent action.

The total quantity of water supplied for all purposes during the year ended 31st December, 1946, was 1,713,150,000 gallons. Highest consumption occurred on 21st October, 1946, when the quantity distributed was 5,547,000 gallons."

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

This service was considerably strengthened by the establishment of a new clinic at Battle Hospital in May of last year to deal with mothers living west of Southampton street. The clinic is under the personal supervision of the Medical Superintendent of the Hospital. The midwives practising in this area of the town attend and thus have direct contact with the doctor carrying out the ante-natal supervision. The appointment of an additional

Assistant Medical Officer of Health has enabled the conduction of two clinics per week at Whitley so that all mothers who so desire may now have medical supervision throughout pregnancy. The midwives of the area also attend at these ante-natal sessions. X-ray facilities continue to be available at Battle Hospital and the Medical Officers may refer cases of difficulty to the Royal Berkshire or Battle Hospitals for specialist opinion or in-patient treatment.

During the year, arrangements were made to examine the chests of all mothers attending the Star Lane clinic by x-ray screening. The results of such examinations are recorded in the report of the Tuberculosis Officer.

The following is a record of the number of mothers attending the ante-natal clinics and the total number of attendances they made :—

Clinic	No. of Sessions held	New Attendances	Re-attendances
Star Lane	146	791	2,750
Whitley	26	211	392
*Battle hospital	29	568	1,538
Queen Victoria Institute ...	101	175	2,596
Totals ...	302	1,745	7,276

*Part year only.

Post-natal cases are seen at Star Lane, Battle Hospital and Whitley. Two hundred and thirty-seven mothers attended these clinics.

Women's Advisory Clinic. For several years, this association has had the use of the infant welfare centre at Star Lane for their meetings which are held on the second and fourth Thursdays in each month. The following is a brief record of the work carried out during the past year :—

Number of new attendances during the year 255

Total attendances 1,152

Since the clinic was first instituted, 1,412 persons have attended for advice.

(b) DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY.

Municipal Midwives. There are five midwives employed directly by the local authority, each of whom is responsible for a certain district of the town. The following is a record of the work carried out by these midwives during the year :—

Number of midwifery cases attended	301
„ „ cases attended in the capacity of maternity nurses, i.e., where doctor is in attend- ance	11

In addition to the above, there are six midwives employed through the agency of the local branch of the Queen Victoria Nursing Institute. The number and description of the cases attended by them during the year was as follows :—

Midwifery cases	... ..	399
Maternity cases	... ..	80

Supervision of Midwives. Fifty-four midwives gave notice of their intention to practice during the year. The manner of employment of these midwives was as follows :—

	Domiciliary Midwives	Midwives in Institutions	Totals
Total number of Midwives practising at the end of the year in the area of the Local Supervising Authority :—			
(a) Employed by the Local Super- vising Authority	5	18	23
(b) Normally employed by other local Supervising Authorities but tem- porarily working in the area ...	—	5	5
(c) Employed by other Welfare Councils			
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of sec- tion 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936	—	—	—
(ii) others	—	—	—
(d) Employed by Voluntary Associations			
(i) under arrangements made with the Local Supervising Authority in pursuance of section 1 of the Midwives Act, 1936	6	—	6
(ii) others	9	11	20
(e) In private practice	—	—	—
Totals	20	34	54

Analysis of results. Of the 700 cases delivered by midwives, emergency medical assistance was sought in 51 cases.

Puerperal pyrexia occurred in 3 cases.
 Ophthalmia neonatorum occurred in 1 case.
 Maternal deaths—nil.
 Foetal deaths—

(a) Stillborn, 21.

(b) within 10 days of birth, 3.

Gas-Air Analgesia. The Council resolved that every mother who wished to have this form of relief should be able to obtain it, and the necessary steps to this end were taken. The Central Midwives Board recognised Battle Hospital as an institution for training and examining midwives for certificates in gas-air analgesia. Dellwood Maternity Home and the Reading Queen Victoria Institute received recognition for the practical part of the course. At the end of the year two municipal midwives were qualified and equipped with the recognised apparatus, and two of the Queen's nurses. Six of the midwives at Battle Hospital, three at Dellwood and one at the Grove Maternity Home held their certificates. All these institutions are equipped with the approved apparatus. At the time of writing this report all your municipal midwives are qualified and administering gas-air.

(c) INSTITUTIONAL MIDWIFERY.

Dellwood maternity home. Dellwood maternity home may be said to have completed a satisfactory year's work. The number of patients admitted during the year was 365. The number of infants born there represents approximately 16 per cent. of all births occurring in the borough during the same period, a rate which compares favourably with that of previous years.

The following further details in regard to the working of the home during the year may be of interest :—

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	296
„ „ „ doctors	...	69
„ cases in which medical assistance was sought by the midwife in cases of emergency	...	85
„ cases of puerperal pyrexia	...	2
„ „ ophthalmia neonatorum	...	Nil
„ infants wholly breast-fed	...	321
„ maternal deaths	...	Nil
„ foetal deaths—		
(a) stillborn	...	7
(b) within 10 days of birth	...	2

Battle Hospital. The following is a record of the work carried out in the maternity ward of Battle Hospital during the year :—

Number of patients delivered by midwives	...	436
„ „ „ doctors	... ..	32
„ „ admitted after delivery	...	9
„ cases of puerperal pyrexia	... ..	9
„ „ ophthalmia neonatorum	...	3
„ infants wholly breast-fed	... ..	384
„ maternal deaths	... ..	2
„ foetal deaths—		
(a) stillborn	... ..	25
(b) within 10 days of birth	... ..	11

Caversham Grove (Emergency) Maternity Home.

The following is a record of the work carried out during the year :

	London County Council (evacuee) patients	Reading patients
Number of patients delivered by midwives	324	103
„ „ „ „ „ doctors	33	9
„ „ cases in which medical assistance was sought by the midwives in cases of emergency	41	17
„ „ cases of puerperal pyrexia ...	2	1
„ „ „ ophthalmia neonatorum	1	—
„ „ infants wholly breast-fed ...	343	108
„ „ maternal deaths	—	—
„ „ foetal deaths—		
(a) stillborn	10	3
(b) within 10 days of birth	4	2

Royal Berkshire Hospital—Details of Work for 1946.

Reading residents :—

Number of patients delivered by doctors	48
„ „ cases of puerperal pyrexia ...	2
„ „ „ „ ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Maternal deaths	—
Foetal deaths—	
(a) stillborn	5
(b) within 10 days of birth ...	5

Maternal Mortality. During the year there were two deaths associated with child-birth, representing a maternal mortality rate of 0.89 per thousand births. The certified causes of death were chronic septic peritonitis due to Caesarian section for malproportion of foetus and post-partum haemorrhage due to retained placenta. Both occurred in institutions.

Stillbirths. There were 73 stillbirths registered during the year, representing a rate of 32 per thousand births. Five were illegitimate, giving a rate of 26 per thousand illegitimate births. A stillbirth means the death of a foetus after it has passed the stage when it is normally viable, but a cause of death is not recorded and indeed not always easily determined. The Chief Health Visitor enquires into the possible causes of every stillbirth notified to the department, and the following is the information collected in respect of 69 of the cases :—

Primiparae	37	Domiciliary	21
Multiparae	32	Institutional	48

Possible causes—

Toxaemia of pregnancy ...	...	...	} 17
Ante-partum haemorrhage ...	...	...	
General condition of the mother ...	...	...	
Malformation of the foetus ...	...	...	16
Malpresentation ...	...	...	15
Premature birth ...	...	...	11
Twin birth ...	...	...	3
Secondary inertia ...	...	...	1
Precipitate delivery ...	...	...	1
Cause not determined ...	...	...	5

INFANT WELFARE.

Maternal and Infant Nutrition. The system of differential rations for expectant mothers and babies during the war years emphasised the importance of adequate and balanced diets for this section of the community. The Ministry of Food have very properly advertised, extensively, facts regarding these extra rations and vitamin supplements, so that all mothers shall avail themselves of them. In stressing the poor “take up” of their vitamin supplements, however, the Ministry may be

unaware of substances supplied at welfare clinics at cost price to mothers who need or prefer alternative substances. Thus, during 1946, 24 gallons of cod liver oil emulsion and 2,400 bottles of A and D vitamin concentrates, were sold, in addition to smaller quantities of Rose Hip syrup and vitamin C tablets. It might be an advantage and an economy if all vitamin supplements and baby foods could be handled through welfare centres in the same way as commercial products.

Infant Consultation Centres. The following table shows attendances at these centres. It will be noted that approximately 80% of all children under one year of age are brought to these centres. The appointment of an additional Assistant Medical Officer of Health during the year under review permits a medical officer to be in attendance each week at seven of the centres, and fortnightly at the remaining one.

INFANT CONSULTATION CENTRES.

Centre	No. of Sessions	New Attendances		Re-attendance	Average of Total Attendances
		Under 1 year of age	Over 1 year of age		
Star Lane, London Street, Reading—					
Wednesday	51	225	12	4,348	89
Friday	51	106	10	2,568	53
Elm Park Hall, Oxford road—					
Morning session	52	120	9	3,403	68
Afternoon „	52	221	12	4,961	100
Park Institute, Wokingham road ...	51	273	17	6,659	136
West Memorial Institute, Caversham	52	160	11	4,172	85
Tilehurst Village Hall	49	68	7	2,276	48
Whitley Clinics—					
Wednesday	51	117	13	2,760	57
Friday	51	102	8	2,130	44
St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford road ...	51	94	14	2,278	47
Shinfield, Tyndale Free Church Hall	52	95	11	2,019	41
Totals ...	563	1,581	124	37,574	768

Health Visiting Summary. The scheme of health visiting is set out below :—

Routine visits—1st year—

1st visit—	Midwives' cases	15th morning	} 5 visits
	Maternity	4 weeks	
2nd		before 2 months	
3rd		at 5 „	
4th		„ 8 „	
5th		within 12 „	
6	One or two visits in second year		
7	One visit in third year		
8	„ „ „	fourth „	
9	„ „ „	fifth „	

N.B.—It is understood that exceptional or unsatisfactory cases should be visited more often as necessary.

Number of visits at the rate of 115 per week, for each health visitor, allowing for 4 clinics.

This work was, unfortunately, curtailed by staffing shortages. The full strength of one Chief Health Visitor and seven District Health Visitors being fully maintained for only part of the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year :—

First visits after receipt of notification	2,061
Visits to children aged one to five years	11,543
Re-visits to children under one year	4,853
Special visits	851
Visits to expectant mothers ...	955
Special visits to cases of measles ...	53
Special visits to cases of ophthalmia	16
Special visits in regard to stillbirths	67
Special visits in regard to infant deaths	59
Special visits to nursed-out children	122
Special visits to cases of whooping cough	95
	20,675

In addition to the above, the following visits were paid by the Chief Health Visitor :—

Visits to home helps	49
„ „ midwives	22
District supervision of nursings ...	20
Visits to Nursing Homes	13
„ „ Hospitals	20

Illegitimate Children. It will be noted that births of illegitimate children were 8.7 per cent of the total for the year. The figure for 1945 was 14 per cent. The arrangements were continued to allow of the admission of unmarried mothers and their babies to suitable hostels, where this was found to be necessary.

Infant Mortality.

(CAUSES OF DEATH under one year).										
Causes of Death.	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 mos.	3 months and under 6 mos.	6 months and under 9 mos.	9 months and under 12 mos.	Total under 1 year.
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3
Meningitis, not Tuberculous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	3	—	2	—	5	4	1	6	1	17
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	7	2	2	13
Other Digestive Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Syphilis	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.	37	1	—	1	39	3	8	2	3	55
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Totals	40	1	3	1	45	13	18	13	9	98

24 of the deaths were of illegitimate children.

It will be noted that 41% of infant deaths occurred during the first week of life and the neo-natal rate (deaths within the first month) was 20.2 per thousand births. This is below the average for the Country as a whole but must be balanced against a stillbirth rate of 32 per 1,000 births which is well above the rate for England and Wales. In short, stillbirths and neo-natal deaths have a common origin and for their reduction maternal health and maternity services should be studied.

For children above one month 30 cases of pneumonia and enteritis constitute causes which should be preventable. It is possible that these two categories are at present somewhat interchangeable. The type of gastro-enteritis, unfortunately prevalent in Reading, bears little relationship to "summer diarrhoea" of former years and the clinical picture is often not

clearly defined. Every infant death is the subject of a report to me by the health visitor of the area concerned. From these enquiries the only generalisation which can be made is that a majority of cases are connected with poor mothercraft and a low standard of domestic hygiene. Overcrowding has an adverse effect but it seems that devoted and skilful maternal care can successfully overcome even this handicap. Mothercraft may be deficient because of ill-health, overwork, ignorance or apathy and it is considerably influenced by the prevailing standard of housing accommodation. Ill-health and overwork can be remedied by the home helps, day nursery and nursery school provision of the local authority. Ignorance should be enlightened by the health visitors and welfare clinics. Apathy, or worse—ill-will—resulting from a lack of the normal driving force of parental love, represents abnormalities for which the services of the local authority have, at present, no remedy.

Premature births. Considerable attention continues to be given to the problem of saving the lives of premature infants. All babies weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less at birth are notified to my department and special forms are returned in respect of all such infants discharged from hospitals or maternity homes.

Health Visitors continue to give extra attention to these cases, and equipment is available on loan from the department.

I set out a brief analysis of the cases during the year :—

Total number of premature babies	Born at Home		Born in Institutions	
	Total	Alive after 4 weeks	Total	Alive after 4 weeks
99	30	25 = 83 %	69	52 = 74 %

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The following is a record of the work performed in Reading during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1946, by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. It has been supplied to me by Mr. S. G. Tilley, the inspector of the Reading Branch of the Society :—

“ Total number of cases dealt with, 297 ; affecting the welfare of 670 children. 1,488 supervision visits were made. In addition 1,956 miscellaneous visits were made in connection with cases. Of the above, 4 cases were prosecuted and 4 dealt with in the Juvenile Court.”

Infant Life Protection. The Health Visitors are all officially appointed Infant Life Protection Visitors for the purposes of this Act. Regular visits are paid to the various homes where the children are boarded out and the foster mothers concerned are all registered as such with the local authority. No foster mother has been registered where the home conditions were found on inspection to be not up to standard. At the end of the year, the number of foster mothers on the register was 13 and the number of children in the care of these foster mothers was 16.

Home Helps. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in maintaining an adequate number of home helps. Only one remained in continuous service throughout the year, although four others were employed for periods varying from two to six months.

Thirty-four cases, each of approximately fourteen days' duration, were attended during the year. The average weekly fee collected was £1 13s. 1d.

Domestic Helps. This service is conducted for the Corporation by the Women's Voluntary Services.

I give the report of the organiser, Miss Huleatt, on the work carried out during 1946 :—

“ Total number of cases assisted	109
„ „ „ attendances ...	2,014
Average number of home helps ...	10
Approximate number of visits paid by Miss Hughes, home help assistant	1,333

Typical Cases :—

Miss W.—Completely paralysed in lower limbs, can only move by dragging herself along the floor.

Mrs. J.—Threatened with miscarriage. No home help free, so three divided work, and miscarriage averted.

Mr. and Mrs. M.—Ages 92 and 88. Husband totally blind, wife deaf and crippled.

Mrs. L.—Mother and self bedridden—father 88.

Mrs. B.—Ulcerated legs, unable to put them to the ground. Six children—youngest four months. Very long case. At first had to send two home helps—one in morning and another in the afternoon.

Mrs. A.—Widow of 82—Invalid. Daughter collapsed and taken to hospital.

None of these cases had any relative to come to their assistance.”

Nursing Homes. There are at the present time 13 homes registered with the local authority, providing bed accommodation for 58 maternity patients and 73 others, a total of 131 beds. All the homes were visited and inspected during the year and were found to be carried on in a satisfactory manner. No new homes were registered during the year. Two applications were received. In one case registration was refused on the grounds that the premises drained into a cesspool. The other was not proceeded with as the building required considerable structural adaptation.

Owing to cases of puerperal pyrexia, one maternity nursing home was closed for one week for disinfection.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939— Section 7.

Number of persons who gave notice under this section during the year	2
Total number of children concerned	2

DAY NURSERIES.

The day nurseries situated in all parts of the town continued to be well attended throughout the year, as will be seen from the following return :—

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCES OF CHILDREN DURING THE YEAR, 1946.

Nursery	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Whole-Time- (0-5 years)													
Holybrook House ...	30	27	30	34	35	38	32	34	39	33	37	32	401
11, Victoria Square	43	43	44	45	55	51	43	50	34	46	45	43	542
Norcot ...	32	24	28	28	39	36	38	30	27	42	30	25	379
Whitley Park ...	32	35	49	47	45	40	35	33	41	44	43	32	476
74, Bulmershe Road	11	14	13	(Closed 31st March 1946)									38
74, London Road ...	22	27	27	(Closed 31st March 1946)									76
Blagrove ...	14	12	13	(Transferred to Educ. Auth. 1/4/46)									39
Caversham ...	25	24	27	(Transferred to Educ. Auth. 1/4/46)									76
Totals	209	206	231	154	174	165	148	147	141	165	155	132	2027
Part-Time (2-5 years)													
Denmark Hall ...	9	7	—	(Closed 18th February 1946)									16
Bridge Street ...	15	16	15	(Transferred to Educ. Auth. 1/4/46)									46
Torrington Road ...	21	23	27	(Transferred to Educ. Auth. 1/4/46)									71
Totals	45	46	42	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	133
Grand Totals	254	252	273	154	174	165	148	147	141	165	155	132	2160

The Council considered carefully the policy to be followed according to the principles set out in Circular 221/45 of the Ministry of Health. As regards nurseries for children of all ages up to five years, it was decided to close two which were in requisitioned houses required for housing purposes. Another nursery in a prefabricated hut had never shown a reasonable demand for children under two years of age, and accordingly was transferred to the Education Authority for use as a nursery school. A second prefabricated hut nursery, for which the demand on the baby side was small and, owing to shortage of State Registered Nurses, staffing difficulties were very considerable, was also transferred for nursery school use. Of the three nurseries for children age two to five years, one in unsuitable premises was closed, and the remaining two were taken over as nursery schools. A town's meeting was held to consider the possibilities of instituting schemes for "child minders" and "sitters-in." Neither appeared to be welcome. The Women's Voluntary Services agreed to attempt to set up an organisation for the supply of "sitters-in," but no real demand has ever developed.

Reading has never been a town where married women have tended to require day nursery accommodation and past records show that the two day nurseries set up during the 1914-18 war were closed by 1920. There does seem now, however, an ever-increasing demand for nursery school accommodation, and a continuing request for day nursery places in the centre of the town. It is gratifying that the natural trend has been for the mother of the young baby to keep her child with her at home, at least during the first year of the baby's life.

There were the usual occurrences of infectious disease in the nurseries, but no outbreaks which occasioned any apprehension. Our experience of the last five years suggests that with expert and vigilant staffs, risks of cross-infection are well within reasonable limits. For the toddler group, day nursery hours are too long, and my own views agree with the Matrons that these children are undoubtedly better in nursery schools. I think that a minimum of day nursery accommodation should be available for mothers forced by economic circumstances to go to work, and this should be coupled with an extensive provision of nursery schools. We have not found that the shorter hours of nursery schools give rise to much difficulty, even with those mothers who must go to work. In any case the problem of school hours only must be faced when the child reaches five years of age. My personal choice would, therefore, be to limit day nursery accommodation to children up to three years of age, and permit a transfer to a nursery school as soon as the toddler is ready for the change. In other words, the day nursery would specialise in baby welfare, and the training and education of the developing child would be a function of the education authority.

It would undoubtedly be helpful to have the day nursery and nursery school as self-contained units in adjoining buildings to foster close collaboration between Matron and nursery school Teacher.

MENTAL WELFARE.

I am indebted to Dr. Wm. Ogden, the medical superintendent of the Berkshire mental hospital, for the following information :—

“ Number of admissions, discharges and deaths of patients chargeable to the County Borough of Reading for the year ending 31st December, 1946 :—

	<i>Voluntary.</i>			<i>Temporary.</i>			<i>Certified.</i>			<i>Total.</i>		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Admissions	22	45	67	—	1	1	15	16	31	37	62	99
Discharges	19	42	61	—	—	—	1	9	10	20	51	71
Deaths	3	11	14	—	1	1	7	14	21	10	26	36

Out-patient clinic—Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Number of new cases ...	...	...	267
Old cases carried forward ...	...	...	39
Cases ‘ followed-up ’ after discharge from hospital ...	...	...	30
Admitted to hospital ...	...	...	17
Total attendances ...	...	...	1,043

Mental Deficiency. Miss D. Collins was appointed Mental Welfare Officer in September 1946 and the mental deficiency service is in the process of being reorganised, following its transfer to the public health department.

The chief difficulty is the continued shortage of accommodation for cases urgently in need of institutional care and it has become quite impossible to obtain vacancies for any of our low-grade cases, consequently many of them are accommodated at Battle Hospital and at the Children’s Homes, Reading.

When the Occupation Centre is established in ‘ The Beeches,’ London road, and the facilities are investigated, it is hoped to provide residential accommodation for some of the children needing institutional care but, even so, this will not entirely solve the difficulty.

Number of mental defectives ascertained to be 'subject to be dealt with' :—

	M.	F.	Total
Institution (Borocourt, 96 ; Brentry Colony, Bristol, 2 ; Stoke Park Colony, 1 ; Royal Earlswood, Surrey, 1)	45	55	100
On Licence from Institution (Employed away from home, 6 ; employed, living at home, 2)	2	6	8
Guardianship (Maintained by this authority, 24 ; in employment, 4 ; Battle Hospital, awaiting vacancy in institution, 1)	14	15	29
Statutory supervision	88	55	143
Of whom under 'awaiting removal to institution'	7	4	11
In 'place of safety'	—	1	1
State Institutions	7	3	10
On Licence from Rampton State Institution	—	1	1
Number of cases granted licence from Institutions during 1946	2	4	6
Number of cases returned from licence to Institutions	1	—	1
Number of cases who have died during 1946	—	1	1
Number of cases ascertained during 1946—			
Adults	2	1	3
Children	1	1	2
Not at present 'subject to be dealt with' but for whom the local authority may subsequently become liable	90	58	148
Of whom 'under friendly supervision'	80	49	129
Number of cases on licence or guardianship supervised on behalf of other authorities	1	2	3

OCCUPATION CENTRE.

I am indebted to Miss E. M. Barkas, Supervisor of the Occupation Centre at Watlington House, for the following account of the past year's work :—

“ The classes are held during the school term from Mondays till Fridays.

Hours of attendance.

Mondays, 1.30-4.30 p.m.

Tuesdays till Thursdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Fridays, 10 a.m.-4.30 p.m.

Numbers attending. The number of defectives on the register are as follows :—

Males.	Females.
Full-time 22	Full-time 30
Part-time 5	Part-time 3
—	—
27	33
—	—

*The staff includes :—*Supervisor

Assistant supervisor

Two guide assistants

One male instructor for boot repairing (two afternoons weekly)

One male instructor for woodwork (one afternoon weekly)

Use of School Medical Service. The centre is indebted to the Assistant School Medical Officer for her visits of inspection. Following her recommendations several pupils have received dental, ophthalmic and other necessary treatments at the clinic.

Transport. Two special buses are now in use for the children and low-grade defectives attending the centre. The districts covered are—

(a) Whitley and Shinfield road

(b) Oxford road and Caversham road.

Free bus tickets are also given to defectives capable of attending the centre unescorted.

Meals. A mid-day meal is served to all defectives attending the centre from Tuesdays till Fridays by means of the school meals' service.

The parents of the defectives contribute 4d. a day towards the cost. In cases of financial difficulties the meals are given free.

The centre is still able to obtain milk under the 'milk for schools' scheme.

Curriculum. The defectives are taught needlework, knitting and rug-making and other elementary crafts, also simple domestic duties, e.g., scrubbing, washing-up of crockery and polishing. The boys are instructed in boot repairing and woodwork, cane and raffia work when materials are available. Sense-training apparatus is provided for the low-grades.

Physical training including folk dancing and singing games form part of the training.

Home teaching. Three defectives have received home teaching.

During the year the centre has been visited by the Medical Director for the N.P.C.M.H. also the Organiser of the supervisors' training course. At the request of the Organiser, students have visited the centre to see the defectives at work."

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

I am indebted to the secretary of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, who act for the Corporation in this matter, for the following account of the work performed during the year :—

" On 31st December, 1946, there were 198 blind people on the register of the Reading Association for the Welfare of the Blind, 74 males and 124 females.

AGE GROUPS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	—	—	—
1 to 4 years ...	2	—	2
5 „ 15 „ ...	4	1	5
16 „ 20 „ ...	—	3	3
21 „ 39 „ ...	9	8	17
40 „ 49 „ ...	6	14	20
50 „ 64 „ ...	17	24	41
65 years and over	36	74	110
Totals ...	74	124	198

AGE AT ONSET OF BLINDNESS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year ...	10	10	20
1 to 4 years	2	3	5
5 „ 15 „ ...	3	2	5
16 „ 20 „ ...	3	1	4
21 „ 39 „ ...	13	17	30
40 „ 49 „ ...	2	9	11
50 „ 64 „ ...	20	32	52
65 years and over	20	48	68
Unknown ...	1	2	3
Totals ...	74	124	198

During the year, 19 deaths occurred, 30 new cases were certified blind, two were transferred to other areas, 8 were transferred into the borough and 2 cases were decertified.

Home Workers. Throughout the year there were eight home workers ; two machine knitters, two basket makers, two piano tuners, one boot repairer and one hand knitter.

Domiciliary Assistance. This was reduced when the Old Age Pension was raised, but the home visitor continued to take out payments to those still eligible for assistance.

Pastime classes. These were held on Mondays and Thursdays and the *Domino Club* met fortnightly on a Wednesday. At the pastime class stool seating, knitting, string bag and rug making and some basket work were performed.

Geranium Day. This was held on May 4th, in amalgamation with the National Institute for the Blind, and the amount collected was over £300.

New Year Party. A party was held on 16th January in Messrs. McIlroy's Jacobean Restaurant. Tea, games and a concert were much enjoyed. Mr. McIlroy, C.B.E., J.P., acted as M.C.

Outing. On 24th July the pastime class enjoyed an outing by Thames Valley coach to Southsea, leaving Reading at 9.15 a.m. and returning about 10 p.m.

Employment. Several blind people obtained employment during the year. The increase on previous numbers was due largely to the Disabled Persons (Employment) Act whereby the blind have the services of the local disablement rehabilitation officers as well as the industrial officers of the National Institute for the Blind in helping them to secure work.

Home for the Blind. The fund for the proposed home was augmented during the year, and amounted to £1,040 by December 31st.

Transport Passes, Cinema Passes. These have been allowed free to all blind people who require them, and our thanks are due to the Corporation transport department and to the managers of those cinemas who have so kindly allowed this benefit to the blind.

Braille readers. The home teacher has given regular lessons in Braille to an encouragingly increasing number of pupils, and several became members of the National Library for the Blind."

Report of Consulting Ophthalmic Surgeon. I am indebted to Mr. G. T. W. Cashell, F.R.C.S., for the following information :—

“ During 1946, 32 cases were examined for admission to the blind register and one was re-examined. Of these cases 26 were found to be blind within the meaning of the Act, and 7 were not.

	Blind	Not Blind	Total
Cataract ...	10	3	13
Glaucoma ...	4	1	5
Myopia ...	—	1	1
Optic atrophy ...	1	—	1
Retinal conditions	8	—	8
Infections ...	2	—	2
Detached retina	—	2	2
Microphthalmus	1	—	1
	26	7	33

In five of the cases blind from cataract operation would be possible. One patient refused operation and in two of the cases it was inadvisable on general grounds. In two of the remaining five cases the cataracts were of diabetic origin. Two of the three uncertifiable cases had been successfully operated on.

The case of glaucoma which was not blind had been successfully operated on.

The case of optic atrophy and one of the certifiable retinal conditions were of syphilitic origin. One case under the heading of retinal conditions was suffering from retinitis pigmentosa, in another the patient was a diabetic and the changes in the remaining five were due to senile degenerations.

One patient under the heading of infections had secondary cataracts as a result of iritis. The other case had lost the right eye and had a nebulous cornea in the left, both as the result of chicken pox when a child.

Of the cases of detached retina, neither of whom were blind, one had been successfully operated on ; the other had been operated on for retinal detachment in the left eye in 1937 but now had a mature cataract in that eye.”

EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE.

I am indebted to Dr. A. A. Miller for the following record of the work carried out in the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, by arrangement with the Reading Corporation, for the year ended 31st December, 1946 :—

“ (1) *Diphtheria*. Out of 300 cases swabbed for diphtheria *C. diphtheria* was isolated from 33. The types were as follows :—

Gravis	...	...	...	...	3
Intermediate	...	...	...	...	25
Mites	...	...	...	...	2
Indeterminate	...	...	...	...	3
Total	...	...	...	...	33

No outbreak of diphtheria occurred during the year.

(2) *Vincent's Angina*. Sixteen cases were diagnosed by microscopic examination.

(3) *Whooping Cough*. Facilities for diagnosing whooping cough by post-nasal swabbing have been available but used to a very limited extent. *H. Pertussis* was isolated from two out of four cases.

(4) *Intestinal Infections*. (a) *Shigella flexnere* was isolated from one child in the Battle Hospital and also from his mother.

(b) *Shigella sonnei* was isolated from two cases in the Battle Hospital and three in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

(c) Enteric Fever. Two cases, one in the Battle Hospital diagnosed serologically as typhoid fever and one in the Royal Berkshire Hospital from which *Salmonella paratyphi B* was isolated. The case of typhoid fever was associated with the outbreak at Aberystwyth.

(d) In the second half of the year *Salmonella typhi murium* infections were much commoner than other intestinal infections. These were also found in other districts in Berkshire. This organism was isolated from eight cases in the Royal Berkshire Hospital and three in the Battle Hospital.

A small outbreak occurred in one Reading day nursery, affecting eight children. *S. typhi murium* was isolated from two of them.

(5) *Widal tests on Water Engineers*. Twelve tests including V_i agglutinations for *S. typhi* were carried out. Several showed residual agglutinins, following T.A.B. inoculations.

(6) *Tuberculosis*. The special examinations for tubercle bacilli commenced during 1945 were continued.

Gastric contents from 26 patients were examined by culture and guinea pig inoculation and 15 were found positive by one or both methods.

Other specimens included sputa (seven specimens), pleural fluid (five) and pus from abscesses (three)."

Queen Victoria Institute for District Nursing. I give a summary of the work carried out by this Association taken, with the permission of the Superintendent, from the annual report for 1946 :—

GENERAL NURSING.									
	No. of Cases		Doctor	Hospi- tal	Ap- plied	Medi- cal	Surgi- cal	Total Cases	Total Visits
	Old	New							
Reading and Earley	260	1,298	920	91	287	1,028	260	1,558	72,753
Caversham ...	39	376	284	17	75	250	126	415	9,681
Tilehurst ...	23	179	114	7	58	143	36	202	5,753
Lower Whitley ...	30	308	164	31	113	171	137	338	7,124
	352	2,161	1,482	146	533	1,592	559	2,513	95,311
Supervisory Visits, Reading ...									1,687
									96,998

GENERAL ECONOMIC POSITION.

I am indebted to the Manager of the Reading Employment Exchange for the following brief note about the trend of unemployment in the borough over the past year :—

"The eight main industries carried on in this area are :—

Distributive Trades
National Government Service.
Aircraft Production
Engineering
Agriculture
Local Government Service
Building
Bread and Biscuit Manufacture.

The number of persons registered at the Reading Employment Exchange during 1946 was as follows :—

Period Ended	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
March	242	62	2	6	312
June	289	71	—	3	363
September	309	80	7	6	402
December	297	55	1	1	354

These figures do not include juveniles residing in the borough of Reading and who are dealt with by the Reading Juvenile Employment Bureau which is under the control of the

Reading Education Committee. It will be seen that at the end of the year the employment position had deteriorated slightly when compared with that which obtained during the first quarter.

The insurable population in July, 1946, was approximately 53,000 and it will be seen, therefore, that the employment position in Reading was good on the whole."

CREMATION.

The Medical Officer of Health is the medical referee to the Reading Crematorium and issues the necessary authority to cremate. During the year under review 344 cremations were carried out.

CONCLUSION.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Health and other Committees for their continued encouragement and support and to all the members of my staff for the zeal and loyalty shown in carrying out their duties.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF READING

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

School Medical Officer

FOR THE YEAR

1946

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL,

READING,

*July, 1947.*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit an abridged annual report on the work of the School Health Service.

SCHOOL POPULATION.

The following summaries are extracted from a report of the Superintendent Welfare Officer, showing the child population on 31st December, 1946, in so far as compulsory school attendance age is concerned :—

Age in years	5–	6–	7–	8–	9–	10–	11–	12–	13–	5 to 14 years
Children in each age group ...	1,452	1,483	1,551	1,610	1,694	1,522	1,609	1,545	1,555	14,021

ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

These have been carried on according to established pattern but the staff available did not allow the work to be up to date at the close of the year. The appointment of an additional School Assistant Medical Officer should enable arrears to be overtaken. Many experienced School Medical Officers have queried the value of examining large numbers of healthy children in order to detect a small percentage of defects. During the war permission was

given by the Ministry to omit routine inspections of intermediate groups, if the shortage of doctors necessitated some curtailment of the service. I do not think a case for abandoning routine inspections has yet been made. The time when gross defects would otherwise have been allowed to go untreated has undoubtedly passed. The more subtle deviations from optimum growth and development can now be considered. It is essential to view these against the background of the general health of the whole school population. This can only be done if the school doctor is permitted to review at regular intervals a cross-section of this population. In doing this he can maintain a standard by which to judge how far the average might be improved to reach the best, and how much the worst must be transformed to attain the average.

The following figures give the number of children examined in each age group :—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	1,261
Intermediates		...	...	...	1,212
Leavers	...	...	...	...	1,061
				Total	3,534
Other ages		...	...	...	44
				Grand total	3,578
Re-examinations	...	...	...		1,446

NUTRITION.

The figures for the year, as enumerated below, show little change from 1945. These estimates are based on the clinical impression of the doctors conducting routine medical examinations. There was a change of medical personnel in 1945 which was not repeated in 1946. We may conclude that the wide variation between 1944 and 1945 was due to this change of observer. Nutrition is intended to imply much more than the noting of weight and age. It covers the assessment of physical development, physique, muscular tone and general vitality. Many attempts have been made to devise systems of measurement which would make this assessment independent of the personal judgment of the examiner. None has so far proved acceptable as far as school medical inspections are concerned. However unscientific, the clinical impression of the experienced medical observer remains, at present, the only practical method for this purpose.

NUTRITION.

Year	No. of children inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly sub-normal)		D (Bad)	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1938	4,106	630	15.3	3,202	78.0	273	6.6	1	.02
1944	3,795	889	23.4	2,745	72.3	161	4.2	—	—
1945	4,696	1,743	37.1	2,737	58.3	216	4.0	—	—
1946	3,578	1,238	34.6	2,167	60.5	172	4.7	1	.02

Children in groups C and D are referred for special examination and diagnosis of the cause of malnutrition, and appropriate steps are taken to remedy the defect. These children are kept under observation for as long as may be required by the School Medical Officer and School Nurses.

Number of special cases seen ... 4,188

Total examinations performed ... 8,289

SCHOOL MILK.

The average number of children receiving milk was 9,800, or approximately 70 per cent of those in attendance. All milk supplied is pasteurised.

SCHOOL MEALS.

I am indebted to the 'School Meals' Organiser for the following information :—

“ The number of meals served was 848,170 compared with 540,128 last year. These include meals served to staff, children's nurseries and children's homes, etc.

The demand for meals increased considerably during the year, but apart from the transfer of the West End British Restaurant to the school meals service there has been little increase in kitchen capacity. Plans have been approved by the Ministry of Education for the erection of several combined kitchens and dining rooms at various schools. It is hoped that these kitchens will come into operation during next year. In the meantime much has been done to increase the capacity of existing kitchens and to improve the dining arrangements by all possible means, including the hiring of neighbouring halls. Considerable delays in receiving equipment have hampered the expansion of the service.”

CLEANLINESS.

The number of visits to the schools and the children examined were considerably increased. The percentage found unclean was 3 per cent, an average figure.

Powers to enforce cleanliness have been modified by the new Education Act, and with the co-operation of the Town Clerk's and Welfare Officer's departments, appropriate forms were drawn up under Section 54 of the Act, so that legal proceedings may be advised when necessary. No such proceedings have been attempted for some years. As regards new insecticides, these have been used as considered necessary, but they are not the real remedy. Hair, which is a graveyard of dead nits and lice, can hardly be called clean. We still recommend repeated shampooing with soap and water and careful combing with a special comb. These combs were difficult to obtain and are, therefore, loaned or sold at cost price from minor ailment clinics. Infestation can occur even in the best regulated families but its elimination presents no difficulties to the normal devoted and conscientious mother whose standard of domestic hygiene is based on a policy of constant cleanliness.

Average number of visits per school made during the year by the school nurses	10
Total number of examinations of children in the schools by the school nurses	40,598
Number of individual children found unclean ...	1,589
Number of individual children cleansed under Section 54 of the Education Act, 1944	32
Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken	—

RINGWORM OF THE SCALP.

The number of cases is fortunately falling, and at the end of the year this troublesome complaint was no longer a major problem. No local x-ray treatment could be obtained and arrangements with University College and St. John's hospitals, London, continued. X-ray therapy is intended to cause a temporary complete baldness and skill and experience in after-treatment are necessary to ensure successful epilation and to prevent re-infection of the regrowing hair. The special clinic at Queen's road has achieved this in a high majority of cases. Much work has been done to trace contacts and detect new cases. All investigations confirm that the spread of infection is firstly within the family and then through the close friends and play-mates of the patients. In no case have we found evidence to

support cross-infection in the schools. The possibility of spread through barbers' shops has been considered. It was found that out of a large number of children attending a suspected shop only a small number had ringworm, and these children lived close together or were close friends. It appears, therefore, that infection is usually due to direct intimate contact. In cases due to fungi of an animal type, cats were the usual suspects. The Wood's lamp had proved invaluable for diagnosis and treatment.

New cases detected	...	...	156
Treated by x-rays	...	...	96
Discharged cured during the year			213
Total attendances at special clinic			7,719
Still attending	...	...	38

RINGWORM OF THE BODY.

Although no special figures have been kept, this condition has been noticed as being more prevalent during the last few years. It differs from ringworm of the scalp in the response to treatment, being readily cured by suitable ointments. These children are dealt with at routine minor ailment clinics.

SCABIES.

Three hundred and twenty-nine cases were treated at Queen's road. This is a slight increase in last year's figures, explained by the closing of the cleansing station at Whitley. On the whole, the incidence of scabies is declining from the high figures of the war years. Benzyl benzoate is the treatment of choice and gives satisfactory results.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following shows the number of children suffering from notifiable diseases and the number of contacts excluded from school during 1946 :—

Patients—

Diphtheria	...	...	24
Poliomyelitis	...	...	6
Scarlet fever	...	...	45
Whooping cough	...	...	39
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	8
Dysentery	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	17

Contacts—

Diphtheria	...	...	...	28
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	3
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	54
Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	15
Whooping cough	...	...	...	17

SPEECH THERAPY.

A full-time speech therapist was appointed and commenced duty on the 1st March, 1946.

A summary of her work is given below :—

“ On 1st March, 1946, the clinic for the treatment of speech defects was re-opened. During the first week 11 children attended, and the number gradually increased until the highest during the year was 60 children on the register. The total number of attendances for treatment from March to December, 1946, was 2,100.

During the year 12 children were discharged completely cured, and all those who suffer from the more serious speech disorders showed definite improvements by the end of the year.

Two children left owing to the difficulty of escorts to and from the clinic, one left the district and two left school. Only two lapsed because the parents could not see the necessity for speech training. Contact is maintained with all who are discharged, and also with those who have left because of attaining school leaving age.

On the whole the attendance was very satisfactory, and the parents and teachers assisted considerably in their efforts to help the children overcome their difficulties.”

PHYSICAL TRAINING.

I am indebted to the organisers of Physical Training for the following report :—

“ The organisers of physical education, being newly appointed, are not in a position to compare the work of this year with that of former years. We appreciate fully, nevertheless, the great difficulties which have been faced during the war period and are generally impressed with the standard of physical education which has been maintained.

The appointment of a woman organiser and the return of men from war service to schools during 1946 has greatly assisted the improvement of this subject. Immediate efforts are being directed towards at least regaining the pre-war standard of work.

There is some change in the difficulties to be faced as compared with those enumerated in the last report :—

- (1) Men teachers have returned from the Forces and new appointments have been made. The former have in some cases brought useful ideas about physical training from the services, whilst many of the new teachers show marked enthusiasm for the work.
- (2) Accommodation remains an acute problem without an immediate solution. Better facilities for physical education will result in time as the promises of the development plan are fulfilled.
- (3) Equipment for games is even more difficult to obtain now that priority of supply to education committees has been cancelled. We have been obliged to compete in an open market.
- (4) With clothing and footwear we have been in the favourable financial position of being able to purchase to the limit of the clothing coupons allocated to Reading Education Committee by the Ministry of Education. The supply of shoes has received prior consideration and the majority of schools have received a liberal number during the past twelve months. Quantities of coupon-free Government surplus stocks of shoes and shorts have also been obtained.

More shoes are becoming available in shops and we hope that children will be encouraged to procure their own. The school medical officer has pointed out the inadvisability of sharing shoes in schools even though the Education Committee cannot supply a sufficient quantity to issue each school child with a pair.

- (5) The time allocated to physical education in school timetables has increased during the year but, from previous records, we understand that the general pre-war standard has not been regained. The recovery is of course hampered by lack of accommodation.
- (6) Courses for teachers have been arranged in physical training, dancing, tennis and swimming.

Games and Swimming. The facilities offered by the Parks Committee in this direction were utilised as fully as the inclement weather permitted. Plans were made to include all primary and secondary schools in the swimming and games programmes. It was found that in certain cases these subjects for boys were in some schools handicapped by the lack of men teachers.

Gymnastic Apparatus. A complete survey of apparatus was carried out in all schools. Steps were taken to arrange an annual inspection of that in the secondary schools by one of the manufacturing firms. Much of the apparatus was found to be out of date and future plans will be aimed at the replacement of

these items and the increasing of scales of equipment in all schools.

Clothing Storage. The storage arrangements for gymnastic clothing in schools was reviewed and the supply of galvanised wire mesh cupboards was recommended.

In conclusion we wish to express our thanks to the voluntary schools associations for their valuable assistance, to the Head Teachers and the teaching staff for their co-operation, to the Chief Education Officer for his guidance and to the Education Committee for its practical assistance."

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC.

The following is a copy of a report received from the Child Guidance Clinic :—

No. of cases brought forward from previous year	...	...	...	58
No. of new cases referred	...	...		109
Total No. of cases sent for consideration and treatment	...	...		167
No. of cases closed	...	...	...	38
After consultation only	...	...		26
After advice and supervision only				12
No. of cases treated and closed—				
Adjusted	...	...	...	14
Improved	...	...	...	22
No change	...	...	...	2
Prematurely closed	...	...		8
No. of attendances—				
For consultation only	...	...		114
Intelligence test only	...	...		3
Treatment interviews only				1,242
Treatment, including remedial coaching	...	...	...	145

MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS.

The policy of developing clinics in close proximity to the schools was continued with the opening of a small treatment centre in Caversham. This clinic suffers from being unattached to any school and attendances have been small. There can be no question that the system has proved successful in improving the health of the children and limiting the time lost from school through illness and minor ailments. The full development is hampered by lack of staff and accommodation, but recommendation for extension will be made as opportunity presents.

The total number of defects treated or under treatment during the year (excluding uncleanness) was 3,371.

Attendances at clinics were as follows :—

Queen's road	...	...	...	8,946
Whitley	...	...	...	9,817
Grovelands	...	...	...	10,281
Battle	...	...	...	7,305
Caversham	...	...	...	1,412

BLIND AND DEAF PUPILS.

	1 At a maintained Primary or Secondary School	2 At an institution other than a Special School	3 At no School or Institution
Blind Pupils	—	—	1
Deaf Pupils	—	—	2

Considerable difficulty exists in obtaining residential accommodation for cases of deafness. At a regional meeting it was agreed that such a school is needed in this area.

TREATMENT OF DEFECTS OF NOSE AND THROAT.

Received Operative Treatment ..	119
Received other forms of Treatment	21
Total	140

TREATMENT OF DEFECTIVE VISION AND SQUINT.

Errors of refraction (including squint)	467
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	48
	Total 515
No of Pupils for whom spectacles were—	
(a) Prescribed	408
(b) Obtained	298

ORTHOPAEDIC AND POSTURAL DEFECTS.

Cases noted at routine medical inspections 291

EAR CLINIC.

This clinic continued to be held as before on Wednesday mornings at the school clinic, Queen's road, by the Assistant School Medical Officer. Details of the number of cases seen, results and treatments, etc., are set out in the following table :—

Cases					Disposal					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Types of Ear Disease	New Cases, 1946	Cases still active from 1945	Recurrences	T's and/or A's	Cured or quiescent	Still under treatment	Ceased treatment without advice	Referred to R.B.H. re T's and A's	Referred to R.B.H. for other reasons	Referred to own Doctor
Subacute or chronic Otitis media ...	29	4	13	8	17	19	4	5	4	1
Otitis Externa	7	—	1	—	5	1	2	—	—	—
Catarrhal Deafness ...	13	—	—	5	6	7	—	4	—	—
Deafness without Eustachean Catarrh or Otitis ...	4	1	—	1	—	3	—	1	2	—
Earache without signs or symptoms of Otitis ...	17	—	—	2	13	3	—	—	—	—
Cerumen ...	19	1	—	(1)	18	1	1	—	—	—
Furuncle ...	8	—	—	2	6	2	—	—	—	—
Foreign bodies	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Otitis ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Eczema of pinna	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—

Others—Deafness in Mental Defective—1.

Referred to clinic for other reasons (e.g., Tonsils and Minor Ailments) or for deafness where none exists—19.

Deafness due to concussion at age of 4 years—1.

Congenital defect of inner ear ?—1.

SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE.

This service was considerably strengthened by the return of Mr. Campbell from war service. Dental sessions are now held at the school clinic, Queen's road, at Whitley and at Battle Hospital, with three dentists working full time.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Education, the post of Senior Dental Officer was established in October of last year.

The following is the record of work performed during the year :—

1. Number of children inspected at school—

(a) Routine Age groups —

3 years	...	...	...	5
4 „	...	...	...	216
5 „	...	...	...	879
6 „	...	...	...	1,096
7 „	...	...	...	1,221
8 „	...	...	...	1,361
9 „	...	...	...	1,404
10 „	...	...	...	1,311
11 „	...	...	...	1,199
12 „	...	...	...	1,019
13 „	...	...	...	1,002
14 „	...	...	...	520
15 „	...	...	...	169
16 „	...	...	...	89
17 „	...	...	...	40
18 „	...	...	...	9

Total 11,540

(b) Specials 1,170

(c) Re-inspections 121

Total Inspections 12,831

2. Number found to require treatment ... 8,746

3. Number actually treated ... 5,461

4. Number of attendances ... 10,772

5. Half-day inspections ... 77

„ treatment ... 1,202

6. Fillings—Permanent	...	...	...	6,740
Temporary	...	...	...	1,591
				8,331
7. Extractions—Permanent	...	...	...	1,463
Deciduous	...	...	...	8,889
				10,352
Extractions for Orthodontic purposes	...			325
8. Administrations of General Anaesthetics				1,722
9. Other Operations—Permanent	...	...		840
Temporary	...	...		483
				1,323
10. Advisory Cases	...	...	...	1,419

The rate of acceptance for the year was approximately 57 per cent.

During the year the following also attended for dental treatment :—

1. Under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme 115 pre-school children made 187 attendances, 103 mothers made 268 attendances and 14 mothers were referred for dentures.
2. Four school children were referred for dentures.
3. Kennylands Holiday Camp—7 children made 7 attendances.
4. Abbey school—5 children made 9 attendances.
5. Christ's hospital—9 children made 14 attendances.
6. Occupation centre—11 patients made 16 attendances.
7. Wychcote's hostel—1 expectant mother made 1 attendance.

PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED AND EDUCATIONALLY RETARDED PUPILS.

I am indebted to the Headmaster of the Special School for the following report :—

Whitley Special School.

There were many changes in the school during the year 1946. Miss E. M. Gibbs and Miss Stevens retired from the staff and four new appointments were made :—the Headmaster, Mr. G. Ross, M.A., Mrs. A. P. Russell, Miss F. M. James, Miss M. M. O'Flynn, B.A., and one part-time appointment, Mrs. Cannon for experimental work in art. The appointment of Miss James made possible the reversion to four classes in the educationally sub-normal department.

Although organisation would be still further improved by a fifth class, lack of accommodation prevents this at present. The same handicap has also prevented much of the intended extension of handicraft instruction, but, by revision of timetables, there is now available for boys, gardening, woodwork, shoe repairing, plastic work, bookcraft, basketry, leathercraft, elementary technical drawing, household-repairs and art ; and for girls, needlework, knitting and art. Further classes will be arranged as opportunity arises.

Boys and girls participate equally in bee craft, at present consisting mainly of observation and talks. A colony of bees was presented to the school through Miss Masters, under whose care the bees have survived persistent curiosity, although there is a suspicion that their strength is attributable to the jam factory some half a mile away. It is hoped to have perspex-sided frames and many more protective nets to facilitate observation next year. The school is a member of the Berkshire Society of Bee-keepers.

The roll of the school was as follows :—

	E. S. N. Dept.		P. H. Dept.		Delicate Dept.	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
On the roll, January, 1946	44	25	34	13	18	27
Admitted during year ..	14	6	7	4	14	17
Left during year	4	2	8	6	14	16
On roll December, 1946 ..	54	29	33	11	18	28

Educationally Sub-Normal Department.

Two girls from this department were placed under statutory supervision during the year. Fortnightly routine visits by the School Medical Officer continued. Swimming certificates were

won by five boys, three elementary and two intermediate. No girls obtained certificates. Miss Buckman continued speech training with special cases in her weekly visit to the school.

Physically Handicapped Department.

Cases in this department are under the care of the Royal Berkshire or London Hospitals. Six are under the Tuberculosis Dispensary and three have received attention at Wingfield. Fortnightly visits were made by the School Medical Officer for routine inspections. Modification of the rest period after dinner was made for older pupils provided physical progress was maintained. The older boys showed considerable interest in the new classes in technical drawing and household repairs, and in the art class, started only in November, two boys and two girls have shown indications of possible development.

Milk, hot or cold, or milk-cocoa, according to taste, is given all pupils on arrival and on departure from school, and Virol, malt and cod-liver oil and tonics are available on medical recommendation.

Attention was given those with speech difficulties by Miss Buckman.

Delicate Department.

Fortnightly routine inspections of children were made by the Tuberculosis Officer. Nurse is in full-time attendance and charts of temperatures, heights and weights were kept for all children. Breakfast, dinner and tea continued to be given to all children and, in addition, orange juice, malt and cod-liver oil or Virol, and, when recommended, tonics.

The older boys participated in the new classes in technical drawing and household repairs and it is intended to extend the scheme of physical education.

The closest co-operation was maintained with the mental welfare committee, the tuberculosis dispensary and the Juvenile Employment Officer. Parents have shown an ever increasing interest in the school and it is hoped to stimulate this interest still further by formal openings and displays.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN.

Three hundred and sixteen children were examined for fitness for employment outside school hours. The work is usually delivery of newspapers.

CONCLUSION.

I would express my thanks to the members of the Education Committee for their unfailing interest and encouragement and to my medical, dental, and administrative staff for their devotion to their duties.

